

COUNCIL TO INVESTIGATE STORM DRAIN SYSTEM FOR TORRANCE

TORRANCE PRESS

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\$1000 DOUGLAS CHECK for the 1956 Torrance YMCA fund is presented to C. C. Morgan, left, industrial chairman of the fund, by J. D. Thomas, factory superintendent of the Torrance facility, El Segundo division, Douglas Aircraft.

Douglas Contributes \$1000 to 'Y' Campaign

In accepting a Douglas Aircraft company check for \$1000 for the Torrance YMCA, Industrial Chairman C. C. Morgan, general superintendent of the Columbia-Geneva Steel Division of United States Steel corporation, today expressed his appreciation for the contribution and for the aircraft company's participation in the 1956 fund drive.

J. D. Thomas, factory superintendent of the El Segundo division's Torrance facility, presented the check and told Morgan the company was happy to join with other Torrance industries in raising money for the YMCA's operating budget.

Morgan said such generous contributions would permit the YMCA to help young people have physical, mental, and spiritual fitness and develop high qualities of character and American citizenship. He said the Torrance "Y" would help provide industry with youth with character fitted for modern industrial society and citizenship.

The Torrance YMCA budget

Attendants Intercept B'rer Stork

It was a race to beat the stork last Saturday morning when two of Wright's ambulance attendants sped to 174th st. and Wenshaw to help deliver a baby who wouldn't wait.

Charley Dusart and Larry Colley responded to a call from police that Mrs. Frank J. Johnson, of 18720 Pothill, was giving birth to a baby in a car behind the North Torrance post-office. Johnson called police shortly after midnight to request help . . . and fast.

Dusart and Colley helped deliver and rushed the baby, a girl, and its mother to Harbor General hospital where both are doing well. Though this was the first time the two attendants had assisted in delivery of a baby while working for Wright's, both have been called on to help the stork "about 10" times before.

Gotts Will Head Retail Merchants



CHARLIE GOTTS

Charles A. Gotts, owner of Daniel's Restaurant and prominent in civic affairs in Torrance, was unanimously elected president of the Retail Merchants Division of the Chamber of Commerce at the recent meeting in the Chamber offices.

Twenty-four persons, the largest attendance at any recent Merchants' meeting, also named the following as officers: O. R. Trueblood (McMahan's Furniture) first vice-president, J. H. Paget (McCown drugs) second vice-president, Frances Lee (Bernard's Bootery) secretary-treasurer.

Named to be the Board of (Continued on Page 5)

City Gets Court Just In Time . . .

Torrance got a municipal court by the skin of its teeth this week because from now on such requests must first be submitted to the Judicial Council before the County Board of Supervisors will act on it.

The supervisors voted in favor of an ordinance which will go into effect in 30 days, establishing such a court. The vote was 3-1 with Supervisors Chase, Hahn, and Jessup in favor, and Supervisor John Anson Ford opposed. Board Chairman Herbert C. Legg was absent.

Ford agreed with members of the Property Owner's association of California who opposed granting of the court on the grounds that the matter should be submitted to the State and Judicial Council for study and recommendation.

After the board granted the Torrance request, they went on record as favoring this proposed policy from now on.

The ordinance was adopted on motion of Supervisor Chase and strongly supported by Hahn, both of whom have actively endorsed such a move.

Observers have claimed that a major reason why Torrance did obtain this branch municipal court is because of the active community support which the issue received.

Glenburn Residents Up In Arms

Residents complaining of unbearable conditions resulting from the installation of a storm drain along Glenburn ave. were assured of the City Council's backing in demanding correction of the situation from the Board of Supervisors.

Referring to the work being done between 166th st. and 175th st., Councilman Nick Draie claimed that "it was the sloppiest job" he had ever seen in his life.

John J. Wolfe, one of the spokesmen for the residents, said that sewers have been standing open for 90 days and that the Pacific Allied construction co., which is handling the storm drain job, has made promises but not done anything to correct the situation.

Wolfe said that trees were ruined and driveways cracked, and that numerous hazards existed in the streets.



DISASTER CENTER . . . Members of the American Legion made their hall available to shelter flood victims during last week's storm. Among those brought to the center were (l-r) Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Martucci, 16717 Elgar, Mrs. Marvin Chalek, 16713 Elgar, her husband, (not shown), and their children, Cheri, 2, and Jody, 5 months (in crib). Seated with the group is Taylor Vondrak, 4, of 16703 Elgar (l). Mrs. Virginia Stoddard of the Red Cross checks after their needs.—Press Photo.

LICENSE DEADLINE SATURDAY

All California motorists were alerted today to avoid penalties on their 1956 license plates by securing their registration renewals before midnight, Saturday, February 4.

To give late applicants an extra margin of time, the department announces it will keep all of its permanent and temporary offices open on Saturday from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. They were originally scheduled to close Saturday noon.

The local office is located on Cravens avenue at the corner of Engracia (next to the telephone company).

Applications mailed Saturday evening with a post mark earlier than midnight will be accepted as penalty-free.

Penalties set up in State laws double the flat \$8 annual registration fee imposed on all vehicles, thus increasing this portion of the total by 50 per cent when it is paid after the penalty deadline. Fee statements issued by the department show the combined amounts as a single total.

The 100 banks that have offered limited service in metropolitan areas included the resi-

Volunteers Spring Into Action As Flood Strikes

Flood waters ran rampant in sections of Torrance last Thursday, necessitating the evacuation of 140 persons (about 50 families). They had all returned home or to friends and relatives by Saturday.

An emergency disaster center was set up in the American Legion hall, 1109 Border Ave. All the facilities of the hall were made available by the Legion to the disaster crews.

Areas which were hardest hit and had to be evacuated centered around 168th St. and Elgar, where the Dominguez channel proved inadequate in carrying off the flood waters.

Other areas included the resi-

Calif. Bank To Open New Location

The Torrance office of California bank opens for business next Monday morning, February 6, in its modern new building at 1403 Sartori avenue, across Marcelina avenue from the present location.

The new bank is several times larger than the old quarters and is of brick and stucco construction. An architectural feature of the building is its all-glass main entrance set in white metal and enframed with imperial red granite.

"The completion of our new Torrance office marks a milestone in the growth of California bank as well as that of the Torrance area," Otsea said. "Since the merger of Torrance National bank into California bank in May, 1954, business of the office has shown substantial gains which reflect the gains being made in both industry and population in the area. It is gratifying to express at this time our appreciation to the people of Torrance for their patronage and support."

Otsea pointed out that complete banking services will be available in the new location including safe deposit, escrow, night depository, and commercial, real estate, and installment loan departments. The fixture installation is of oak and includes 19 teller windows and private booths for escrow and safe deposit department customers.

Interior of the bank will be fluorescent lighted and has such features as a sound absorbing ceiling, terrazzo flooring, and a large mezzanine at the rear of the lobby.

The staff of the new office will consist of 37 individuals. Assisting Otsea in the administration of the bank will be George W. Post, assistant cashier; Robert G. Leech, assistant manager of the office in charge of the installment loan department; Milton A. Pagel, operations officer; William M. Reuss Jr., manager of the real estate loan department; and W. B. Hickey, escrow officer.

Bond Issue to be Approved by Voters

In an effort to remedy the serious drainage problems in Torrance every time there is a heavy rain, the council agreed unanimously to investigate the possibility of an adequate storm drain system for the city.

City engineers have been authorized to make a survey with the idea in mind that the plan would be submitted as a bond issue to be approved by the voters of Torrance.

The proposal was made by Councilman Nick Draie.

City Engineer Ronald Bishop and Assistant Engineer John Patrick said they began investigating the possibilities of such a system following last week's flood.

Cost
Cost of such a storm drain system has been tentatively estimated as between \$5-\$10 million, Bishop said.

"Such a system would take care of 99% of our rains," Patrick explained.

Once the bonds are voted it would be a matter of "several" years until the system would be completely installed, Bishop said.

The council should receive a report on the matter in about three to four weeks.

Sumps
Councilman Willys Blount also asked that the city take care of some immediate problems involving dangerous sumps.

He asked that the wooden fences around three sumps be replaced with chain-link fences. He had reference to the Suzanna sump and two sumps in the Allied Gardens tract. These two are city sumps.

Blount also termed as "grossly negligent" the existence of (Turn to Page 5)

Slain Man's Body Found On Cliff

A wealthy motel owner, reported missing last week, was found half-way down a 150-foot cliff near Point Fermin, apparently the victim of a robbery and murder.

The bullet-riddled body of Matt Manestar, 56, who disappeared from his motel office at 1345 W. Pacific Coast highway a week ago Monday, was discovered by Lee Minks, 40, of 1239 S. Grand ave., San Pedro.

Minks found the body as he was walking along the beach shortly before dark, according to San Pedro police.

Police said Manestar had \$1.06 in his pockets. He was last seen by his two sons, Emil, 27, and Milton, 25, commercial fishermen, shortly after midnight Monday.

Council Changes Meeting Time

Council meetings will be held at 5:30 p.m. every Tuesday from now on, according to action taken by the City Council.

Some of the meetings have been held at 8 p.m. until now. Mayor Albert Isen and Councilmen Victor Benstead and Marvin Schwab favored the change. Councilmen Nick Draie and Willys Blount voted against it.

MODERNIZING AND ENLARGING . . . California bank will be open for business at its new location, 1403 Sartori ave., Monday morning, February 6. The new building is across the street from the present bank building.—Seaman Photo.



REPRODUCING MACHINE . . . A. E. Thompson, (l), refinery manager at the Torrance plant of General Petroleum, shows A. L. Nickerson, (r), president of Socony Mobil Oil Co., and

R. L. Minckler, president of General Petroleum, the plant's Ozalid machine, a dry-process photostating machine. Operating it is Otto Helms.—Press Photo.

